

larger programs than could be carried out under the 50 p.c. ratio, and arrangements were made whereby the Dominion would contribute 20 p.c. of the costs of construction of the approved projects in Saskatchewan and 33½ p.c. of the costs of the accepted projects in Manitoba.

Provision was made in the agreements that, except in such instances as the Minister of Mines and Resources, or his Deputy, decided it was impracticable or inconsistent with reasonable efficiency and economy to do so, the provincial authorities would enforce a stipulation that "at least 50 p.c. of those employed shall, if possible, be men who are relief recipients or those who, but for such employment, would otherwise be in receipt of relief" A further stipulation required that first consideration be given to those most in need in localities where works were to be performed, preference in employment being given to unemployed ex-service men and unemployed married and single men with dependants. Special provision was made in the agreement with British Columbia for the employment of a percentage of 'single unemployed' in connection with the work on tourist highways in that Province.

**Aid in the Drought Areas.**—The agreements under which the Dominion, through the Department of Agriculture, met the cost of material aid and feed and fodder relief in the drought areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta for the year 1938-39, terminated as at Mar. 31, 1939. With the coming of spring the need for feed and fodder relief was reduced but assistance was required by the Province of Saskatchewan for seeding operations. The Dominion agreed to contribute \$200,000 and to loan an additional \$1,300,000 for seed and seeding supplies. Seeding supplies included tractor fuel, feed and fodder, and repairs to implements and harness. Material aid was also required in parts of Saskatchewan until the returns from the 1939 crop were within reach, and the agreement relating to it was, therefore, renewed for the period Apr. 1 to June 30 and was later extended to the end of August. An amount of \$1,404,263 was expended under the agreement for the five-month period. As direct Dominion assistance to such parts of the Prairie Provinces as might experience adverse crop conditions was to take the form of acreage payments under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act as from Dec. 1, 1939, drought area relief, as such, ceased at Aug. 31 and the "drought areas" were dealt with, like other rural relief areas, under the material aid agreements with the provinces. Payments under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act were intended to eliminate the need for material aid after Dec. 1 in the townships of low wheat yields where the Act became applicable.

In addition to the material aid and seeding assistance, carried out under the Act, the Dominion Government purchased and distributed a quantity of apples, at a cost of approximately \$87,500, to supplement the food purchases of those affected by adverse crop conditions. This helped to reduce a surplus of apples that has resulted from the loss of normal markets through the outbreak of war.

**Single Unemployed Persons.**—Owing to the lateness of the spring season, the agreements respecting the Farm Employment Plan entered into with the western provinces under the Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1938, were, at the request of the provinces, extended under the Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1939, to cover the period Apr. 1 to May 31, 1939. No payment was made to the farmer for these months and the allowance to the worker was \$7.50.